A BRIEFE EXPOSITION of the Principles of Christian Religion.

Gathered out of the holy Scriptures, for the benefite of all that are desirous to heare Sermons and to receiue the Sacrament with Comfort.

LONDON,
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17...96

TO MY DEARE and well-beloued Hearers, the Congregation of *Steeple Aſhton* and *Semington*, in Wiltſhire: Grace and Peace, &c.

BRethren, mine hearts deſire and Praier vnto God for you is, that you might be ſaued: For, God is my Rom. 10. 1.
record, how I long after you all, from the very heart-roote, in Ieſus Chriſt, ſince the day that I came a- Phil. 1, 8.
mongſt you: not ceaſing to pray for you, that you may be fulfilled with the know-
ledge of his will, in all wiſedome and ſpi- Coloſ. 1. 9. 10.
rituall vnderſtanding, that you may walke worthy of the Lord, and pleaſe him in all things, being fruitfull in all good works, & encreaſing in the knowledge of God: for the better building of you vp in the which true ſauing knowledge, together with my vſuall courſe of teaching, I haue eſpecially laboured in Catechiſing of you, conſidering how I found you, at leaſt wiſe the

greatest part of you; such who albeit
Heb. 5..12. *concerning the time ought to haue beene Teachers, yet had neede to be taught againe the first Principles of the word of God, and had neede of Milke and not of stronger meate.* Experience sheweth how little Preaching profiteth where Catechising is neglected. Therefore my care hath beene (according to my poore power) to make you acquainted with the grounds and Principles of religion, that so a good foundation being laid, I might haue hope of a more prosperous building. Wherein as I cannot but with thankefulnesse acknowledge your good beginning, and willing forwardnesse to submit your selues to that religious action, so I cannot but with griefe admire the back-sliding of some amongst you, who beginne to draw their neckes out of this yoake, and wilfully oppose themselues against the same? To whom I may iustly speake as the Prophet did of vntamed rebellious
Hosea 6. 4. *Ephraim; O Ephraim, what shall I doe vnto thee? O Iuda, how shall I entreate*
Galat. 4. 16. *thee? Am I therefore become your enemies*

enemies, becauſe I ſeeke the good of your ſoules? Or what will they plead for themſelues, *why they are ſo ſoone remoued from their good beginning?* Was it becauſe they be diſcouraged by the skofs and taunts of prophane *Iſmalites?* It is a bleſſed thing to be euill ſpoken of for Chriſt Ieſus: Or was it becauſe they were aſhamed publiquely in the face of the Congregation to make confeſſion of their Faith? Oh, but the Apoſtle telleth them that *they ſhould be alwayes ready to giue an anſwer to euery one who ſhall aske them a reaſon of the faith that is in them*: and therefore much more to there owne Paſtor, that hee may ſee their profiting in religion, and that publiquely in the congregation that others may reape profit by their examination. Or was it becauſe their inſtructions were onely written notes, which they who could not writ could not read, and therefore could not be ſo ready for their anſwer? If this be it: Loe here for the eaſe of mine owne paines in writing, and their more eaſie reading, I haue cauſed to be printed

Galat. 1. 6.

Mat. 5. 10.

1 Pet. 3. 15.

this *breife ſumme of the Principles of Religion*, gathered out of the holy Scriptures, which hetherto hath beene the ſubiect of my catechiſing amongſt you. Let no man cenſure me that I haue light my Torch in the midſt of ſo glorious a Sunſhine, and haue preſumed to ſet forth theſe my indigeſted collections, ſo many worthy Catechiſmes being already publiſhed. For to you (my deare and welbeloued hearers, as a token of of my good-will towards you, and a memoriall of that doctrine which for theſe fiue yeeres ſpace I haue taught amongſt you) I doe commend this little Treatiſe, the ſumme of that which both in my preaching and Catechiſing I haue taught vnto you: In the handling whereof, I haue endeauored to my power to be plaine, ſimple, ſhort, and profitable: abſtaining from curious and hard Queſtions, and bringing the Queſtions and anſweres to as few words as I could, for the eaſe of children and common people: wherefore, deſiring to heare of your profit, and the fruit of my labour

bour, I cannot but of very loue and duty exhort you, not onely to take this my labour in good part, but alſo to vſe it aright, leaſt it be a witnes againſt you in the day of the Lord: Loe here I lay before you the knowledge of the right way of Saluation, proteſting vnto you, in the name of him that ſhall Iudge both quicke and dead, that the rehearſing of the Beliefe, our Lords Prayer, and the ten Commandements, the hearing of the word, and the receauing of the Sacraments, can profit nothing vnto Saluation, without the right vnderſtanding & applying of the ſame to our ſelues in particular. If therefore you will not receaue this light of knowledge when it is offred vnto you, I call heauen and earth to witnes againſt you, that yee ſhall ſurely periſh, your bloud wilbe required at your own hands. *But I am perſwaded better things of you*, and ſuch as accompt any ſaluation; I am perſwaded that like faithfull *Abraham*, you will teach your children & your houſholds, and commaund them to ſerue the Lord. That you wil by often

instructions and examinations out of this or any other Catechisme, you will prepare your Children and Seruants for the Minister, that he may the better prepare both you & them for the Lord. What need you haue of this continuall exercise in your houses ye your selues and I by experience can beare witnesse: How great and grose is the Ignorance of many, notwithstanding the cleere light of the gospel so long shining amongst vs. Let vs therefore euery one of vs in our places *endeuour that the word of Christ may dwell plentiously in vs, teaching and admonishing our selues, in Psalmes and Himnes, and spirituall songs, and let vs exhort one another daily, least any of vs be hardned through the deceitfulnesse of sinne. Finally (Brethren) striue forward vnto perfection; be of good comfort, liue in peace. And the very God of peace sanctifie you throughout, that your whole spirit, and soule, and body, may be kept blameles vnto the comming of our Lord Iesus.* Amen.

Coloſ. 3. 16.

Heb. 3. 13.

2 Cor. 15. 11.

1 Theſ. 5. 22.

Your vnworthy Pastor.

G. W.

A BRIEFE Exposition of the Principles of Christian Religion.

Sect. I.

Of Christian Religion, and the Scriptures.

Question.

WHAT Religion doe you professe? *Religion Christian what it is.*

Ans. Christian Religion. Acts 11. 26.

Quest. What is Christian Religion?

Ans. Christian Religion is the true professing, beleeving and following of those things which are taught Iohn 17. 3. Rom. 10. 9. Iohn 5. 39.

taught and commanded by God in the Scriptures.

Qu. What doe you call the Scriptures?

Scriptures. An. The written Word of God, contained in the Bookes Canonical of the Old and New Testament.

Heb. 9. 1. & 15.

Their Parts.

Qu. What doe you call the Old Testament?

Old Testament. Anſ. The old Teſtament is the fore part of the Bible, containing in it the Bookes of Moſes, the Pſalmes, and the Prophets, with the other Canonicall Hiſtories and Treatiſes, which were written before the comming of our Saviour Chriſt in the fleſh.

Luke 24. 44. Hebr. 1. 1.

Qu. Which doe you call the new Teſtament.

New Teſtament. Anſ. The New Teſtament is the latter part of the Bible, containing in it the Bookes of the Goſpell, the Acts of the Apoſtles, and their Canonicall Epiſtles.

Heb. 12. 22.

Qu. How ſhall we know whether theſe Bookes of the Scripture, are the very word of God, or no?

Anſ.

Anſ. Beſides the teſtimonie of Gods holy Spirit which doth aſſure the ſame vnto our ſoules and Conſciences, there are many reaſons to confirme vs in the certaintie thereof. *Their Credit and Warrant.* Iohn 15. 26. Iohn 16. 13. Iohn 5. 36.

Qu. What is your firſt Reaſon?

Anſ. The powerfull operation of the Word, contained therein, they being powerfull to binde the Conſcience, and to pierce into the very thoughts of the hart, which no other writings are able to doe, and therefore this muſt néedes be the very word of God. 1 Ierem. 23. 29. Heb. 4. 12.

Qu. What other reaſon haue you to confirme you in this?

Anſ. The generall conſent, and impartialitie of the Penne-men of the ſame: who albeit they liued ſome long after others, and wrote in places farre diſtant one from the other, yet their writings doe ſo well agrée as if they had written at one time and altogether. 2 1 Pet. 1. 21. Mat. 22. 40.

Qu. What other reaſon haue you yet to proue the Scriptures to be the very word of God?

Anſ.

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Esay 34. 16. 2 Pet. 1. 19.

Ans. The certaine and infallible truth of those things which are contained in the same: there being nothing fore-told but in his due place and time is accordingly fulfilled.

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Qu. Shew me yet some other reasons to confirme you in it?

Ierem. 36. 28. Mat. 5. 18.

Ans. The miraculous preseruation of these Bookes from time to time: the common consent of the Church of GOD, acknowledging these Bookes for no other but the sacred word of God, and the testimonie of Martirs, who haue shed their bloud in defence of the things contained therein, which doubtlesse they would not haue done, had they not beene fully assured that they had beene the very Word of God.

Heb. 11. 35-36. 37. 38.

Their sufficiency.

Qu. Doth the Scriptures containe in them all things necessary to be knowne of vs vnto saluation?

Deut. 12. 32. Esay 8. 20. Iohn 20. 30. 31. 2 Tim. 3. 16. 17

Ans. Yea: for God being full of all wisedome and goodnesse, prescribing vnto vs a Booke of knowledge, would leaue out nothing that was requisite for vs to know.

Quest.

Queſt. What muſt wee doe vvith the Scriptures? *Their vſe.*

Anſ. Wée muſt read them, heare them, meditate in them, and liue according to the direction of them. Deut. 6. 6. 7. Math. 13. 9. Pſalm. 1. 1. Pſal. 119. 105.

Queſt. May all read the Scriptures?

Anſ. Yea.

Queſt. Why?

Anſ. Firſt, becauſe euery one muſt be able to proue and examine mens Doctrines and doings by the Scriptures. Secondly, euery one muſt be able to proue and try himſelfe whether he be in the Faith or no. Thirdly, becauſe euery one muſt be able to render an account of the Faith that is in him. Laſtly, becauſe euery one muſt be able as his calling requireth, to teach, admoniſh, exhort and comfort one another. Acts 17. 11. 2 Cor. 13. 5. 1 Pet. 3. 15. Heb. 3. 12.

Queſt. What if men cannot read?

Anſ. Then they muſt vſe the help of thoſe that can read. Acts 16. 14.

Queſt. Is it enough to read the Scripture priuately, or with others?

Anſ. No; but we muſt alſo heare Acts 9. 31.

them

them taught and expounded vnto vs publikely in the Church.

Quest. Why must preaching be ioyned with reading?

Rom. 10. 14. Ans. Because it is the principall and proper meanes to beget Faith within vs.

Qu. How many things are requisite to him that would be a good hearer or reader of the word.

Rules for reading and hearing. Ans. Foure things especially.

Quest. Which be they?

Esay 66. 2. Heb. 4. 2. Ezech. 33. 32. Act. 16. 14. Ans. First, a trembling Feare of the Maiestie of God: secondly, an assured Faith in Christ: Thirdly, an earnest endeauour to frame our liues thereafter: and lastly, Prayer for Gods blessing vpon those things which we read or heare.

Qu. What is the summe of that which the Scriptures doe propose vnto vs.

Iohn 17. 3. Ans. The right knowledge of God, and of our selues.

Sect. II.

Of God, and our Creation, with mans first estate.

Question.

WHat is GOD?

GOD.

Ans. God is a Spirit, or spirituall Substance, most wise, most holy, eternall, infinite.

What he is. Iohn 4. 24. 1 Tim. 1. 17.

Quest. How shall I know whether there be a God or no?

Ans. Besides the testimonie of the Scripture, mine owne Conscience, and all the Creatures of the World doe plainely convince that there is a God which made them all, and before whose Judgement Seate I must answere for what I doe.

Whether there be. Rom. 2. 15. Rom. 1. 10. Act. 14. 17.

Quest. How many Gods be there?

Ans. There is but one onely God.

The number 1 Cor. 8. 6. Deut. 6. 4.

Qu. Is not God the Father, God: and God the Sonne, God: and God the Holy Ghost, God?

Ans.

Anſ. Yes.

Queſt. Are there not then three Gods?

1 Iohn 5. 7. *Perſons in the God-head.*

Anſ. No: there are three Perſons in the God-head, and yet but one God.

Queſt. What is a Perſon in the Trinitie.

Iohn 15. 1. Iohn 14. 9.

Anſ. It is a diſtinct ſubſiſtence, having the whole Godhead in it.

Queſt. How many Perſons be there?

Anſ. Three.

Queſt. Which be they?

Haggai 2. 6. Mat. 3. 16. 1 Iohn 5. 7.

Anſ. The Father, the Sonne, and the holy Ghoſt.

Queſt. What is the Father?

The Father. Pſal. 2. 7. Iob. 14. 1. Heb. 1. 3.

Anſ. The firſt Perſon of the Trinitie, that of himſelfe eternally hath begotten his onely Sonne.

Queſt. What is the Sonne?

The Sonne. 1 Iohn 2. Heb. 1.

Anſ. The ſecond Perſon in the Trinitie, that in the vnitie of Eſſence is eternally begotten of the ſubſtance of his Father.

Queſt. What is the holy Ghoſt?

The holy Ghoſt.

Anſ. The third Perſon in the Trinitie,

Trinitie, proceeding eternally from the Father and the Sonne. Iohn 14. 26. Rom. 8. 9.

Quest. Is not the Father greater then the Sonne, and the Sonne greater then the holy Ghost?

Ans. No: for their glory is all equall, and their Maiestie coeternall. Iohn 1. & 26.

Quest. How is God made knowne vnto vs?

Ans. By his Workes, Word, and Spirit. *How God is conceiued by vs.*

Quest. What be the Workes of God? Rom. 1. 20. Iohn 5. 39. Rom. 8. 16.

Ans. The Creation of the world, and euery thing therein, and the preseruation of them, being created, by his speciall Prouidence. Ierem. 10. 12. Psal. 33. 6.

Quest. Who created the World, and all the Creatures therein?

Ans. God. Genes. 1. 1.

Quest. Whereof did hee create them?

Ans. Of nothing, onely by his Word. Genes. 1. 2. Heb. 11. 3.

Quest. In how many dayes did he create them?

Ans. In sixe dayes. Genes. 2. 1.

Queſt. Could not hee haue finiſhed the Creation ſooner?

Anſ. **Yes, if it had pleaſed him.**

Queſt. Wherefore then did hee occupy ſixe dayes in the Creation of them?

Rom. 1. 20. Anſ. **To the end, that we might the better conſider him in his workes.**

Qu. In which of theſe ſixe dayes was man created?

Geneſ. 1. 26. Anſ. **In the firſt day.**

Queſt. Whereof was man made?

Geneſ. 2. 7. Anſ. **His Body was made of the duſt of the earth, into which the Lord breathed the breath of life.**

Qu. In what eſtate was man created?

Geneſ. 1. 27. Anſ. **Hee was created in the Image of God.**

Queſt. What is the Image of God?

Epheſ. 4. 24. Anſ. **Perfect holineſſe and righteouſneſſe.**

Queſt. To what end, or why was man created?

Epheſ. 2. 10. Anſ. **To acknowledge and ſerue his Maker.**

Queſt. What libertie had they to obey his Will?

Anſ.

Anſ. They had frée Will to obey and diſobey.

Queſt. What profit had they by their obedience?

Anſ. They were bleſſed and happie in body and ſoule. Geneſ. 1. 27.

Sect. III.

Of the fall of our firſt Parents: of Mans ſecond eſtate: of the Law, and our impoſſibilitie to keepe the ſame.

Queſtion.

DOe wee continue ſtill in that our firſt eſtate?

Anſ. No: but by Nature we are dead in ſinnes, hauing in vs the ſéed of all ſinnes. Epheſ. 2. 1. 1 Tim. 5. 6.

Queſt. How commeth this to paſſe, ſeeing wee were ſo perfectly created?

Anſ. By the fall of Adam. Rom. 5. 12.

Queſt. What was *Adams* fall?

Anſ. Diſobedience againſt God, in eating the forbidden fruit. Geneſ. 2. 17.

Quest. What moued them to this disobedience?

Gen. 3. 1. 2. Ans. Sathan, and their owne inconstancie.

Quest. How did Sathan perswade them?

Genes. 3. 5. Ans. Hee perswaded them that God did enuy their happinesse, that no danger, but much good, would come of the eating of the forbidden fruit.

Quest. How could they be perswaded, hauing the Image of God?

Genes. 2. 17. Ans. They had the Image of God, but not the gift of Constancie.

Quest. What things did they lose through their fall?

Genes. 3. 17. Ans. The fauour and Image of God, with the vse of the Creatures.

Quest. What did they procure to themselues by this fall?

Rom. 5. 14. Gal. 3. 10. Ans. Death of Body and Soule with all other miseries.

Quest. But what is that to vs? how commeth it to passe that our nature is corrupted?

Ans. By naturall Propagation from

from our first Parents.

Quest. How so?

Ans. They being the stocke and roote of all mankinde, and we the branches proceeding from them, our Nature was so corrupted in them, that from thence we are all conceiued and borne in originall sinne. Iob. 14. Psal. 51. Rom. 5. 12. 18

Quest. What is originall Sinne?

Ans. The corruption of our whole Nature by naturall propagation deriued vnto vs. Colos. 3. 9. Iob. 14.

Quest. In whom is this corruption of Nature?

Ans. In all men without exception that proceede out of the loynes of Adam. Rom. 3. 10.

Quest. In what part of man is it?

Ans. In euery part both of Body and Soule. Genes. 6. 5. 1 Thes. 5. 23.

Quest. What be the fruits of this Originall Sinne?

Ans. Euill thoughts in the minde, euill motions and lusts in the heart, euill wordes and deedes, with all other Sinnes, which we doe commit. Iohn 13. 2. Act. 5. 3. 1 Chron. 21. 1.

Quest. How doe you know that you are a Sinner?

Rom. 2. 15. Ans. By the testimonie of mine owne Conscience, and by the Law of God.

Quest. Where is this LAW of God set downe?

Exod. 20. Ans. It is written in many places of the Scripture, but the summe thereof is contained in the tenne Commandements.

Quest. How many Commandements be there in this Law?

Ans. Tenne.

Quest. Rehearse them.

Exod. 20. Ans. God spake these words and said: I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out the Land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage,

1 Thou shalt haue none other Gods, but me.

2 Thou shalt not make to thy selfe any grauen Image, nor the likenesse of any thing that is in heauen aboue, or in the earth beneath, or in the water vnder the earth: thou shalt not bowe downe to them, nor

nor worship them: For I the Lord thy God am a ſealous God, & viſite the ſinne of the Fathers vpon the children, vnto the third and fourth generation of them that hate mee, and ſhew mercie vnto thouſands, in them that loue me, & keepe my Commandements.

3 Thou ſhalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vaine: for the Lord will not hold him guiltleſſe that taketh his Name in vaine.

4 Remember that thou keepe holy the Sabboth day. Sixe dayes ſhalt thou labour, and doe all that thou haſt to doe: but the ſeauenth day is the Sabboth of the Lord thy God. In it thou ſhalt doe no manner of worke, thou, and thy ſonne, and thy daughter, thy man-ſeruant, and thy maide-ſeruant, thy cattle, and the ſtranger that is within thy gates: for in ſixe dayes the Lord made heauen and earth, the ſea, and all that in them is, and reſted the ſeauenth day, wherefore the Lord bleſſed the ſeauenth day, and halowed it.

5 Honour thy Father and thy Mother, that thy dayes may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giueth thee.

6 Thou shalt doe no murther.

7 Thou shalt not commit Adulterie.

8 Thou shalt not steale.

9 Thou shalt not beare false witnesse against thy neighbour.

10 Thou shalt not couet thy neighbours house, thou shalt not couet thy neighbours wife, nor his seruant, nor his maide, nor his Oxe, nor his Asse, nor any thing that is his.

Quest. What thing doe these Commandements teach vs?

Mat. 22. 40. Ans. They doe teach vs our duty both to God and man.

Quest. How be the Commandements deuided?

Exod. 23. 15. Ans. Into two Tables, or parts.

Quest. How many Commandements are there of the first Table.

Ans. Foure.

Quest. How many of the second?

Ans.

Anſ. Sire.

Queſt. What doe the Commandements of the firſt Table teach vs?

Anſ. Our dutie towards God. Mat. 22. 37.

Qu. What is the generall ſumme of our dutie vnto God?

Anſ. Wee muſt loue the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our ſoule, and with all our minde, performing ſuch inward and outward obedience vnto him, as he requireth to the honour of his Name. Deut. 6. 6.

Queſt. What doe the Commandements of the ſecond Table teach vs?

Anſ. Our dutie towards our neighbour.

Queſt. What is the ſumme of our duty towards our neighbour?

Anſ. Wee muſt loue our neighbour as our ſelfe, yeelding them that loue, reuerence, and obedience which their places require, and endeuouring to preſerue (as much as in vs lyeth) the Perſons, Chaſtitie, Goods, and good Name, both of our ſelues and others, and by abſtaining from Mat. 22. 38. 39. Rom. 13. 7. Rom. 12. 15. 1 Theſ. 4. 3. Gal. 5. 13. Pſal. 15. 3. 1 Tim. 1. 5.

all

all couetous and vngodly desires.

Quest. Can we keepe these Commandements without breaking them in thought, word, or deed?

Ephes. 2. 3. Rom. 7. 18. 19 Ans. No: for being by Nature borne and conceiued in sinne, we are not onely insufficient to do any good things, but also disposed to all vice and wickednesse.

Quest. Is not God then vniust to giue such a Law vnto vs which we are not able to keepe?

Gen. 1. 27. Hosea 13. 9. Ans. No: for when God created vs, he made vs able for to keepe his Law, we being changed and made weake through sinne, the fault is our owne.

Q. To what end then serueth the law, seeing we are not able to keepe it?

Rom. 3. 9. Phil. 3. 9. Gal. 3. 24. Ans. To shew vs our misery, to lead vs vnto Christ, and to be a rule for the well ordering of our liues.

Quest. What is the punishment due to those that breake these Commandements?

Rom. 5. 12. Galat. 3. 10. Ans. Eternall destruction, both of Body and Soule.

Quest.

Queſt. Is this Curſe due to vs all?

Anſ. Yea: for all haue ſinned, and wee doe all breake theſe Commandements in thought, word, and deed. Rom. 3. 10. Pſal. 13. 3.

Queſt. Can wee our ſelues by our owne good workes make ſatisfaction for our ſinnes?

Anſ. No: but rather wee doe daily encreaſe our debt. Luke 17. 10.

Queſt. Can there none of the Creatures in Heauen or Earth, being onely creatures, make ſatisfaction for vs?

Anſ. No: For there is none that is onely a Creature, which can abide the wrath of GOD againſt Sinne, and deliuer others from the ſame. Pſal. 49. 7.

Sect. IIII.

Of our Redemption, Mans third Estate.

Question.

HOw then doe you looke to be saued?

Ans. By Iesus Christ.

Quest. Who is this Iesus Christ?

Ans. The eternall Son of God,

Heb. 2. 16. perfect God and perfect man.

Iohn 1. 14. *Quest.* Must hee needes be both God and Man?

Ans. Yea.

Quest. Why?

1 Tim. 2. 5. 6. Ans. First, because he must dye

Galat. 4. 4. for vs, and God cannot die, there-

Philip. 2. 7. fore hee must needes be Man: Secondly, hee must ouercome Death, which, being onely man, hee could not doe, therefore he must be God.

Quest. How was hee made man?

Mat. 1. 18. Ans. Hee was conceiued in the wombe of the Virgin, and sanctified by

by the holy Ghoſt at his conception.

Qu. By whom was he conceiued?

Anſ. By the Holy Ghoſt. Mat. 1.20.

Queſt. Why was he conceiued by the Holy Ghoſt.

Anſ. That hée might be without ſinne, and ſo ſanctifie vs. Luke 1.35.

Queſ. Why was he made man like vnto vs?

Anſ. That he might dye for vs in our owne Nature. Iohn 1.16.

Qu. Of whom was hee borne?

Anſ. Of the Virgin Mary. Luke 1.27.

Queſt. Had the Virgin *Mary* any thing to doe in the redemption of vs?

Anſ. No.

Queſt. Why then is ſhe named in the Goſpel.

Anſw. That we might know our Sauiour Ieſus Chriſt to come of the promiſed Tribe and Familie.

Queſt. Of what Tribe and Houſe was he promiſed?

Anſ. Of the Tribe of Iuda, and Houſe of Dauid: Gen. 49.10.

Queſt. What bee the Offices of Chriſt to make him an Al-ſufficient Sauiour? Anſ.

Pſal. 45. 7. Luke 4. 18. Deut. 18. 15. Anſ. He is a Prieſt, a Prophet, and a King for vs.

Queſt. Why is he our Prieſt?

Pſal. 10. Anſ. To worke the meanes of Saluation, in the behalfe of mankinde.

Queſt. How doth hee worke the meanes of our Saluation?

Mat. 20. 28. Heb. 7. 25. Anſ. Firſt, by making ſatisfaction to his Father for the ſin of man: Secondly, by making intercellion for him.

Queſt. How doth he make this ſatisfaction to his Father for vs?

Acts 20. 28. 2 Cor. 5. 15. Iſay 53. 10. Anſ. Firſt, by his perfect righteouſneſſe, & obedience in performing all that the Law required: Secondly, by ſuffering for vs that which our ſinnes deſerued.

Queſt. Vnder whom did he ſuffer?

Luke 3. 1. Mat. 27. 2. Anſ. Under Pontius Pilate, the chiefe gouernour at that time for the Roman Emperour at Jeruſalem.

Queſt. What death did he ſuffer?

Iohn 19. 18. Anſ. He was crucified vpon the Croſſe.

Queſt. Wherefore did hee ſuffer that

that kinde of death?

Anſ. Becauſe that kinde of death was moſt accurſed, and he was now to ſuſtaine our Curſe. Gal. 3. 13.

Queſt. What was this his ſuffering?

Anſ. In Body and Soule he ſuſteined the whole wrath of God, due to the ſinne of man. Eſay 93. 5. Mat. 26. 27.

Queſt. Wherefore was he buried?

Anſ. To aſſure vs the better of his death. Phil. 2. 5. 6. Mat. 27. 60. 66

Queſt. What is meant by this Article, *He deſcended into Hell?*

Anſ. That he went downe in ſoule into the place of the damned to triumph ouer the powers of darkneſſe. 1 Pet. 3, 14.

Queſt. Wherefore did hee ariſe from the dead?

Anſ. To aſſure vs of his victory ouer death. Mat 28. 6. 1 Cor 15 16. 17. 55 56.

Queſt. Why did hee aſcend into heauen before vs?

Anſ. To take poſſeſſion of our inheritance in our name. Iohn 14. 2.

Queſt. What doth he there?

Anſ. Hee maketh continuall intercellion for vs. Rom. 8. 34.

Queſt.

Queſt. What kinde of Interceſſion is this?

1 Pet. 2. 5. Anſ. A continuall mitigation of his Fathers wrath for vs, through the vertue of his Death, by which he maketh the Faithfull, and their Prayers acceptable vnto his Father.

Queſt. Why is Chriſt our Prophet?

Iohn 6. 45. Anſ. To reueale vnto his Church the way and meanes of ſaluation.

Queſt. How doth he this?

Mat. 3. 17. Anſ. By the outward miniſterie of his Word, and the inward operation of his holy Spirit.

Queſt. Why is he our King?

Eſay 9. 7. Anſ. That he might bountifully beſtow vpon vs, and conuey vnto vs all the meanes of our ſaluation, and beare rule ouer vs.

Queſt. How doth he ſhew himſelfe to be our King?

Acts 10. 40. Ephes. 4. 8. Acts 1. 9. Anſ. In that being dead and buryed, he roſe againe from the graue, aſcended into heauen, and now ſitteth at the right hand of his Father with

with full power and glory in heauen.

Quest. What are the effects of all these actions of Christ vnto vs?

Ans. They haue wrought our Redemption, Saluation, and Sanctification. Luke 1. 68. Rom. 8. 34. Ephes. 4 22.

Quest. What is our Redemption?

Ans. A deliuery of vs from sinne, and the punishment thereof, and restoring vs to a better and more happy estate. Rom. 5. 15. 16 1 Cor. 15. 4.

Quest. Wherein doth our Saluation consist?

Ans. In Remission of our sinnes, Imputation of Christs righteousnesse vnto vs, bestowing of life euerlasting vpon vs. Colos. 2. 13. Rom. 5. 18.

Quest. What is Sanctification?

Ans. It is a fréedome within vs from the bondage of Sathan, and a renuing of vs vnto newnesse of life. Ephes. 4. 22. Colos. 3. 8.

Quest. Are all men without exception, partakers of this benefit of Redemption and Saluation?

Ans. No: for the greatest part shall haue their portion in Hell fire with the Diuell and his Angels. Math. 20. 16. Mat. 7. 13.

Queſt. Who are they then that ſhall be ſaued by Chriſt?

Iohn 3. 16. Iohn 1. 22. Anſ. Onely the true Beléeuers, which lay holde on the merits of Chriſt, by a true and liuely Faith.

Sect. V.

Of Faith, and the Articles of our Beliefe.

Queſtion.

WHat is Faith?

Iohn 19. 35. Galat. 3. 27. Coloſſ. 2. 12. Anſ. Faith is a wonderfull Grace of God, by which a man doth apprehend & apply Chriſt and all his benefits to himſelfe.

Queſt. How doe we apply Chriſt vnto our ſelues in this Faith?

2 Cor. 1. 21. 22 Rom. 8. 16. Anſ. When wée are verely perſwaded by the holy Spirit, of Gods fauour towards our ſelues particularly, and of the forgiueneſſe of our owne ſinnes.

Queſt.

Qu. How is this assurance wrought within vs?

Ans. By Gods holy Spirit, sealing the same to our soules and Consciences. Rom. 8. 15.16.

Quest. What meanes doth the Spirit of God vse to worke this within vs?

Ans. First, by working in vs a sight of our sinnes, and sorrow for them: then, by working certaine inward motions in the Heart, which are the seedes of Faith: and lastly, filling our hearts with the assurance of his loue in Christ, which assurance is a liuely Faith. Acts 2. 37. 1 Tim 1. 15. Reuel. 21. 6. Act. 8. 22.

Quest. Are there not diuers degrees and measures of true Faith?

Ans. Yes, for there is a weake Faith, and there is a strong Faith.

Quest. What is the least measure of true Faith, that a man can haue?

Ans. When a man of an humble spirit, by reason of the littlenesse of his Faith, doth not yet feele the assurance of the forgiuenesse of his sinnes, and yet is perswaded that Esay 42. 3. Mat. 17. 20. Luke 17. 5.

they are pardonable, and therefore desireth that they should be pardoned, and with his heart longeth for pardon for them.

Quest. How doe you know that such a man hath Faith?

Rom.8.23. Gal. 4. 6. Ephes. 3. 17. Rom. 8. 9. Ans. These desires and prayers are testimonies of the Spirit: now where the Spirit of Christ is, there is Christ dwelling: & where Christ dwelleth, there is true Faith, how weake soeuer it be.

Quest. What is the greatest measure of true Faith?

Rom. 8.38. Cant.8.6.7. Ans. When a man daily encreasing in Faith, commeth to be fully perswaded of Gods loue in Christ, towards himselfe particularly, and the forgiuenesse of his owne sinnes.

Qu. When shall a Christian heart come to this full assurance?

2 Tim. 4.7.8. Psal 23.6. Rom. 4.20. Ans. Not at the first, but in some continuance of time, when hee hath beene well practised in Repentance, and hath had diuers experiences of Gods loue to him in Christ: then will appeare in his heart the fulnes of

of perſwaſion, which is the ripenes and ſtrougth of Faith.

Queſt. How ſhall a man know whether hee hath this true Faith in him or no?

Anſ. By the fruits and markes thereof. Math. 7. 16.

Queſt. Which be the fruits and markes of Faith?

Anſ. An hatred of ſinne, and loue of righteouſneſſe, a continuall deſire and endeauour to pleaſe God in the duties commanded, and an vnfained loue of God and our neighbour. 2 Cor. 7. 11. 1 Theſ. 5. 23. Pſal. 119. 113. Mat. 22. 40.

Queſt. Rehearſe the ſumme of your Beliefe.

Anſ. I beléeue in God the Father Almighty, maker of Heauen and Earth. And in Ieſus Chriſt his onely Sonne our Lord, which was conceiued by the holy Ghoſt, borne of the Virgin Mary, ſuffered vnder Poncius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried, hée deſcended into Hell, the third day hée roſe againe from the dead, he aſcended into Heauen, and ſitteth at the right hand of God

the Father Almighty: from thence he ſhall come to iudge the quicke and the dead. I beléeue in the holy Ghoſt; the holy Catholike Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiuenesse of ſinnes, the reſurrection of the body, and the life euerlaſting.

Qu. Into how many parts are theſe Articles of Chriſtian Faith diuided?

Anſ. Into two parts.

Queſt. Which be they?

Anſ. The firſt ſheweth our faith towards God: the ſecond, our faith concerning the Church.

Queſt. What doe you profeſſe in the firſt part?

Anſ. In the firſt part I declare that I beléeue in God the Father, the Sonne, and the holy Ghoſt.

Queſt. Why ſay you I beleeue, not we beleeue?

Habac. 2. 4. Anſ. Becauſe I muſt liue by mine owne Faith, and not by the Faith of another.

Qu. Why doe you ſay, I beleeue in God, and not rather, I beleeue that there is a God?

Anſ.

Anſ. By ſaying, I beléeue in God, I declare that I put my whole truſt and affiance in God, whereas the Diuels and wicked men, beléeuing there is a God yet cannot put their whole truſt and confidence in God. Iames 2. 19.

Queſt. What doe you beleeue concerning God the Father?

Anſ. I beléeue that he is the Father of Chriſt by nature, and my Father by grace through him: that hée is of infinite power and might, the Creator, Gouernor and Preſeruer of all things both in Heauen and earth. Epheſ. 12. 2. Heb. 11. 3.

Queſt. What doe you beleeue concerning God the Sonne?

Anſ. I beléeue that he is the Sauiour promiſed, the onely begotten Sonne of God, head to man and Angels: who for vs men and for our ſaluation, toóke our fleſh vpon him, incarnate by the holy Ghoſt of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified alſo for vs vnder Poncius Pilate, ſuffereth the death of the Croſſe, and was buryed, he deſcended Math. 1. 21. Rom. 8. 29. Philip. 2. 7. Luke 1. 35. Luke 2. 7. Math. 27. Luke 24. 26.

scended into Hell, and the third day hée rose againe, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into Heauen, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father, hauing all authoritie and power ouer all things both in heauen and earth: I beléeue also that hée shall come at the day of Iudgement with maiestie and great glory, to iudge both the quicke and dead, to pronounce the blessed sentence vpon the godly, and the sentence of condemnation vpon the wicked.

Acts 1. 9. Psalm. 110. 1. 1 Thes. 4. 16. 1 Cor. 15.

Quest. What doe you beleeue concerning God the holy Ghost?

Ans. I do beléeue that he is God, equall with the Father and the Son, who putteth all things in execution which are decréed by Gods secret counsell.

John 15. 16. Ephes. 2. 20.

Qu. What benefits doe we receiue from this holy Ghost?

Ans. The holy Ghost doth assure me that I am the childe of God, by making me to call him Abba, father: Secondly, he assureth me by vertue of the death & resurrection of Christ, that

Rom. 8. 15. Philip. 3. 10. Rom. 12. 13.

that Sinne dieth in me, and I am raised vp to holinesse of life: Thirdly, he leadeth me into all truth needfull to Gods glory and my saluation: and lastly, hee comforteth me in all my troubles, and in death assureth me of a better life.

Quest. What is the holy Catholike Church, which you here confesse?

Ans. A peculiar company of men, predestinated to life euerlasting, and made one in Christ. 1 Pet. 2. 9. Luke 12. 32.

Quest. What be the parts of this Church?

Ans. The Church militant here on earth, & the Church triumphant in heauen. Ephes. 3. 15. Heb. 12. 22.

Quest. Doe wee beleeue in the Church?

Ans. No: for wee must beleeue onely in God. Deut. 6.

Qu. What then doe you beleeue of the Church?

Ans. That God hath a certaine number of his chosen children, which hee hath predestinated to eternall life, and in his due time calleth and Ephes. 1. 4. 5. Iohn 15. 19.

and gathereth to himselfe.

Quest. How doth God gather his Church vnto himselfe?

Rom. 8. 30. Ans. Whom he hath predestinated, them hee calleth: whom he calleth, them hee iustifieth: whom hee iustifieth, them he glorifieth.

Quest. Why is this Church called the holy Church?

1 Pet. 2. 9. Ans. In respect of the iustification & sanctification of it in Christ Iesus.

Qu. Why doe you call it Catholique?

Esay 49. 22. Mat. 26. 13. Reuel. 7. 9. Ans. Because it is gathered from all parts of the earth, consisteth of all sorts and degrées of men, and was, is, and shall be, to the end of the world.

Qu. How may the Church of God externally be knowne of vs?

Iohn 10. 27. Ans. By the true professing of the Word and Sacraments.

Quest. What are the Prerogatiues or benefits which God bestoweth vpon his Church?

Ans. They are especially these foure: the Communion of Saints, the

the forgiuenesse of sinnes, the Resurrection of the Body, and life euerlasting.

Qu. What is this Communion of Saints?

An. The mutuall participation of Christ and his graces, amongst his members. Acts 26. 18. Coloss. 1. 12. Ephes. 1. 18.

Qu. What followeth vpon this Communion?

An. A spirituall vniting, societie, and communion amongst Christ his members. Acts 4. 32. 2 Pet. 1. 7.

Quest. May men be ioyned vvith Christ, and not with his Saints?

An. No: nor yet with his Saints, if not with Christ. 1 Iohn 1. 6.

Qu. May wee separate our selues from those particular churches where the word is retained, and the Sacraments truely administred?

Ans. No: albeit sundry vices doe abound there, yet wee may not wholy condemne such Churches, or make separation from them. 1 Cor. 5. 11. Psal. 17. 4. 2 Pet. 2. 8.

Qu. But the multitude are there wicked and prophane.

Ans.

Ezech. 18. 4. & 20.

Anſ. Yet there is a true Church where the Word truely remaineth.

Queſt. But by this way we are bodily ioyned with the wicked?

1 Cor. 3. 8.

Anſ. That cannot hurt vs, nor profit them.

Queſt. Why?

Galat. 6. 5.

Anſ. Becauſe we and they are ſpiritually ſeperated.

Queſt. What is the next benefit which you beleeue to be giuen by God to euery member of his Church?

Anſ. The forgiuenesſe of ſinnes.

Queſt. What is the forgiuenesſe of ſinnes?

Eſay 33. 24.
Eſay 62. 12.
Rom. 4. 25.
Micha 7. 19.

Anſ. It is a bleſſing of God vpon his Church, procured by the death and paſſion of Chriſt, whereby both the ſinne, and the punishment due thereunto, is freely forgiuen to the faithfull.

Queſt. How oft are our ſinnes forgiuen vnto vs?

Anſ. Continually vnto our liues end.

Queſt. What looke you for at the hands of God after this life?

Anſ.

Anſ. The Reſurrection of the body, and life euerlaſting.

Queſt. What doe you beleeue concerning the Reſurrection of the Body?

Anſ. I beleeue that this Body of mine after that it is diſſolued into duſt, ſhall be raiſed vp againe at the laſt day, and both body and ſoule ſhall liue together for euer in euerlaſting bleſſednesſe. Iob 19. 25. 1 Cor. 15. Iohn 5. 28.

Queſt. With what body ſhall vve riſe againe?

Anſ. With the ſame bodies, but free from corruption and alteration. Iob 19. 26. Phil. 3. 21.

Queſt. Wherefore ſhall vvee riſe againe with the ſame bodyes?

Anſ. That they may receiue reward with our ſoules. Acts 3. 19.

Queſt What reward is that?

Anſ. Life euerlaſting.

Queſt. What is this life euerlaſting?

Anſ. It is that bleſſed and happie eſtate which the faithfull ſhall enioy after this life in Heauen, where they ſhall raigne with Chriſt Eſay 64. 4. Iohn 7. 20.

their

1 Cor. 2. 9. their Head, and enioy the presence of God with endlesse happinesse.

Quest. Shall all men haue this life euerlasting?

Mat. 25. 41. Mat. 8. 12. Ans. No: for the wicked shall be cast into Hell, there to endure torments vnspeakable both in body and soule for euer.

Quest Whereupon is your beliefe, concerning all these things, grounded?

Prou. 28. 19. Answ. Vpon the holy Word of GOD.

Qu. What other outward meanes besides the word, haue you to encrease your Faith.

Ans. The Sacraments and prayer.

SECT. VI.

Of the Sacraments.

Question.

WHat is a Sacrament?

Ans. A Sacrament is a sensible

ſenſible ſigne and viſible ſeale of the benefits of our ſaluation in Chriſt Jeſus. Rom. 4. 1. Geneſ. 17. 12. Galat. 3. 2.

Qu. How doe the Word and Sacraments differ?

Anſ. The Word ſpeaketh to the eare, the Sacraments to the eyes. Mat. 13. 9.

Queſt. What neede haue wee of a Sacrament to repreſent the mercies of God before our eyes?

Anſ. Becauſe we are dull to conceiue, and ſlow to beléeue heauenly things, vnleſſe by ſenſible and earthly things they be repreſented vnto vs. Iohn 20. 25.

Anſ. How many Sacraments be there?

Anſ. Two Sacraments. Iohn 19. 34.

Queſt. Which be they? 1 Cor. 10. 1. 2.

Anſ. Baptiſme, and the Supper of the Lord. Mat. 28. 19. Mat. 28. 26.

Queſt. VVho ordained theſe two Sacraments? 1 Cor. 10. 24.

Anſ. The Lord Jeſus.

Queſt. To what end did hee ordaine them?

Anſ. To ſtrengthen our Faith, and Rom. 4. 11.

and to further our Repentance.

Queſt. How many things are to be conſidered?

Anſ. Two things: the outward ſigne, and the thing ſignified.

Queſt. What is the Sacrament of Baptiſme?

Mat. 28. 19. Titus 3. 5. Acts 22. 16. Galat. 3. 27.

Anſ. The Sacrament of Baptiſme is an holy action, inſtituted by Chriſt: wherein, by the outward waſhing of Water, is repreſented and ſealed forth vnto vs the waſhing away of our ſinnes by the bloud of Chriſt, and the Couenant of grace betwæne God and vs.

Queſt. In the Sacrament of Baptiſme, which is the outward ſigne?

Anſ. Water.

Queſt. What doth that ſignifie?

Acts 1. 38. Ephes. 5. 26.

Anſ. The waſhing away of our ſinnes by the bloud of Chriſt.

Queſt. How is your Faith ſtrengthened by Baptiſme?

Iohn 3. 5. 1 Pet. 1. 2.

Anſ. By Baptiſme I am receiued into the Familie of the Lord, and thereby fully aſſured that both my ſinnes are forgiuen mee, and the

the punishment due vnto the same.

Quest. Who are to be baptised?

Ans. Onely the faithfull and their seede. Acts 7. 37.

Quest. Must the children of the faithfull being infants be baptised?

Ans. Yes.

Quest. Why?

Ans. First, because they belong to the Couenant & Church of God, as wel as others: Secondly, forgiuenesse of sinnes and the holy Ghost is promised to them as well as to others: Thirdly, that there may be a difference made betweene them and the children of Infidels: And lastly, because Baptisme is come in the place of Circumcision. Now infants amongst the Iewes were circumcised, and therefore the Children of the faithfull Christians being but Infants, are to be baptised. Genes. 17. 7. 1 Cor. 12 13. Acts 2. 39. Mat. 19. 14. Acts 10 47. Rom 11. 16. Coloss. 2. 11. 1 Cor. 10. 9.

Quest. What doe you professe in Baptisme?

Ans. To dye vnto sinne, and to liue vnto righteousnesse: to forsake the Diuell, the World, and the Marke 16. 16.

Flesh, and to liue as it becommeth Christians.

Quest. What danger is it not to performe this our vow and promise in Baptisme?

Deut. 23. 21. Eccles. 5. 4. Ans. **Fearefull damnation, because it is a breach of the vow and Couenant made with God.**

Quest. What is the Sacrament of the Lords Supper?

1 Cor. 11. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. &c. Ans. **It is an holy action ordained by Christ: wherein the Bread broken, and the Wine poured out, is deliuered to all the faithfull, that they may eate of that Bread, and drinke of that Cup in remembrance of Christs death.**

Quest. In this Sacrament which be the signes that may be seene?

Ans. **Bread and Wine.**

Quest. What doe they signifie or represent?

Ans. **The Body and Bloud of Christ.**

Quest. Is the Bread and Wine turned into the very Body and Bloud of Christ?

Ans

Anſ. No: for Chriſts Body and Bloud is in heauen, and the Bread and Wine in their nature and ſubſtance are not changed, but in vſe they differ from other common bread and wine, becauſe they be appointed of God to be ſignes and Seales of the Body and Bloud of Chriſt. Math. 26. 26. Acts 1. 9.

Queſt. Why then doth Chriſt ſay; *This is my Body?* Mat. 26. 26. 1 Cor. 11. 24.

Anſ. It is a figuratiue kinde of ſpéech, vſuall in the Scriptures, as Circumciſion is called the Couenant: the Lambe is called the Paſſeouer: and yet Circumciſion is not the Couenant: the Lambe is not the Paſſeouer, but a Signe thereof. Geneſ. 7. 10. Exod. 12. 11.

Queſt. Wherefore doe we receiue the Supper of the Lord?

Anſ. In remembrance of his death and paſſion. 1 Cor. 11. 26.

Queſt. What good will this remembrance doe vnto vs?

Anſ. It ſerueth to ſtrengthen our Faith, and to ſhew vnto vs the ſpi- 1 Cor. 10. 16.

rituall vnion which wee haue with Christ.

Quest. How is your Faith strengthened by the Supper of the Lord?

Ans. By the Supper of the Lord my Faith is strengthened, that as I receiue the Bread and Wine into my body to become mine, so doth my Soule receiue withall Christ Iesus and all the benefits of his Death and Passion to be wholy mine.

Quest. What doth the breaking of the Bread signifie vnto vs?

Ans. The breaking and suffering of Christs body vpon the Crosse.

Quest. What signifieth the pouring out of the Wine?

Ans. The shedding of Christs blood euen to the death.

Quest. What meaneth the giuing of the Bread and Wine vnto vs?

Ans. The giuing of Christs body and blood vnto our soules.

Quest. What meaneth the taking of the Bread and Wine?

Ans. The spirituall receiuing of Christs body and blood.

Quest.

Queſt. What meaneth our corporall eating and drinking of the bread and wine?

Anſ. Our ſpirituall feeding vpon the body and bloud of Chriſt.

Queſt. How doe wee eate Chriſts body and drinke his bloud?

Anſ. Spirttually and by Faith. Iohn 6. 51.

Queſt. Declare how that is.

Anſ. It is with a certaine affiance of minde to lay holde on the whole Paſſion and death of Chriſt, thereby to obtaine forgiueneſſe of ſinnes and life euerlaſting, and alſo to be ſpiritually vnited vnto Chriſt, that wee be fleſh of his fleſh, and bone of his bone. Iohn 6. 40. 1 Iohn 4. 13. Rom. 8. 9.

Queſt. Are all Perſons without exception, to be admitted to this Sacrament?

Anſ. No.

Queſt. Who are not to be admitted?

Anſ. Children, Fooles, Madde men, ignorant Perſons, knowne Heretickes, open and notorious ſinners, not repenting.

Queſt. Why are not theſe to be admitted?

1 Cor. 11. 29. Anſ. Becauſe they receiuing it vnworthily, ſhould eate & drinke their owne damnation.

Qu. What then is required of thoſe that vvould be vvorthy Communicants?

1 Cor. 11. 28. Anſ. They muſt try and examine themſelues.

Queſt. Wherein muſt they examine themſelues?

Hoſea 4. 6. Anſ. Firſt, they muſt examine, concerning their knowledge, what knowledge they haue in the principles of Religion, eſpecially in the matter of the Sacraments.

Queſt. Wherein elſe muſt they examine themſelues?

Luke 13. 1. Pſal. 119. 57. Anſ. Concerning their repentance, whether they be heartily ſorrowfull for their ſinnes paſt, purpoſing by Gods aſſiſtance to leaue their ſins, and for the time to come, to liue a better life.

Queſt. Wherein elſe muſt they examine themſelues?

Anſ.

Anſ. Concerning their Faith, whether they haue a true Faith or not: for without Faith it is impoſſible to pleaſe God, and whatſoeuer is not of Faith, is ſinne. Heb. 11. 6. Rom. 14. 23.

Queſt. What further examination muſt be vſed before the receiuing of this Sacrament?

Anſ. They muſt examine themſelues concerning their loue, whether they be in perfect loue and charitie with all men, ſeeking reconciliation where any thing hath bene amiſſe. Mat. 5. 23. Mat. 18. 35. Rom. 12.

Qu. After this examination, what muſt follow in thoſe that would be worthy Communicants?

Anſ. A premeditation or ſerious conſideration of the benefits ſigned and ſealed vnto vs in the Sacrament which wee are about to receiue. Ezech. 36. 21. Ierem. 31. 31.

Queſt. How muſt we be diſpoſed in the preſent act of receiuing?

Anſ. We muſt preſent our ſelues with reuerence before the Lord, ſetting our Senſes and Faith awoorke on the meditation of Chriſts bitter Eccleſ. 4. 17. Prou. 23. 1.

Passion and his merits for vs, in the Sacrament represented vnto vs.

Quest. What is to be done after our receiuing?

Psal. 116. 12. Rom. 12. 1. 1 Pet. 1. 17. 18. & 2. 5. 9. 10.

Answ. Wee must giue heartie thankes vnto God for this inestimable benefit which wee haue receiued, in being partakers of this so holy a banquet: and resolue to leade a new life, as hauing renued our Couenant with the Lord, for that purpose.

Quest. What shall a true Receiuer feele in himselfe after the receiuing of the Sacrament?

1 Cor. 10. 16. 17 & 11. 24.

Ans. The encrease of his Faith in Christ, the encrease of sanctification, a greater measure of dying to sinne, and a greater care to liue in newnesse of life.

Sect. VII.

Of Prayer and Thankesgiuing.

Question.

VVHat is the other helpe you haue to encreaſe Faith?

Anſ. Prayer.

Queſt. What is Payer?

Anſ. Prayer is an humble lifting vp of the minde, and pouring forth of the heart before God.

Queſt. What be the parts of Prayer?

Anſ. Inuocation, Supplication, Intercellion and Thankelgiuing. 1 Tim. 2. 1.

Queſt. What is Inuocation?

Anſ. That part of Prayer wherby wee begge at the hands of God ſome good thing vnto vs.

Queſt. What is Supplication?

Anſ. That part of Prayer, wherby wee entreat God to remoue ſome euill from vs.

Queſt. What is Interceſſion?

An. That part of prayer, wherby wee

we entreate the Lord to grant some good thing vnto our brethren, or to remoue some euill from them.

Quest. What is Thankesgiuing?

Ans. That part of Prayer whereby we render thankes to God for benefits bestowed eyther vpon our selues, or our brethren.

Quest. To whom must wee pray?

Rom. 10. 14. Deut. 6. 13. Psal. 50.

Ans. To God onely.

Quest. In whose name must wee pray?

Iohn 14. 6.

Ans. In the name of Christ.

Quest. Why must our prayers be made in his Name?

1 Tim. 2. 5. Heb. 9. 6. 1 Iohn 2. 1. Ephes. 3. 12. Reuel. 19. 10.

Ans. Because in him God is pleased with vs, and hath promised for his sake to heare vs.

Quest. May we not pray to Saints, or Angels, or to the Virgin *Mary*, or to God in the name of a Saint or Angell?

Ans. No.

Quest. Why?

A. Because there is neyther commandement, nor promise, nor example for it in the Scriptures.

Quest.

Queſt. For whom muſt we pray?

Anſ. For our ſelues, our Princes, our Magiſtrates, our Miniſters, our Superiours, Inferiours, friends, and foes, euen all that ſtand in neede of our Prayers. 1 Tim. 2. 1. Iames 5. 13. Mat. 5. 44. Rom. 12. 14.

Queſt. May we not pray for the dead?

Anſ. No: for ſuch are idle and bootleſſe Prayers. Pſal. 49. 7.

Queſt. For what may we pray?

Anſ For all things needfull and neceſſary both for body and ſoule. Ioh. 16. 23. 24. Iames 1. 5.

Queſt. What affection is required of vs in our Prayers? Math. 7. 7.

Anſ. Wee muſt pray with a zealous ſpirit, with heart and ſoule, and not with colde affection and lippe-labour. Rom. 8. 26. Hoſea 7. 14.

Queſt. May wee not follow our owne fantaſies in prayer?

Anſ. No: for then our Prayers would be very vaine. Iames 4. 3.

Queſt. What rule hath God giuen vs to direct vs in theſe our Prayers?

Anſ. The Scriptures, and chiefly, the Lords Prayer. Mat. 6. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.

Queſt.

Queſt. Rehearſe the Lords Prayer.

Anſ. Our Father which art in Heauen. Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdome come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heauen. Giue vs this day our daily Bread. And forgiue vs our treſpaſſes as wée forgiue them that treſpaſſe againſt vs. And lead vs not into temptation, but deliuer vs from euill: For thine is the kingdome, the power, and the glory, for euer and euer. Amen.

Queſt. Is it lawfull for vs to vſe no other forme of words in our Prayers but theſe?

Anſ. Wée may vſe other words, but wee muſt pray for the ſame things, and with the ſame affection, following the rules in the Lords Prayer preſcribed vnto vs.

Queſt. How is the Lords Prayer diuided?

Anſ. Into thrée parts: a Preface to the petitions; the Petitions themſelues; and a Concluſion.

Queſt Which words doe containe the Preface?

Anſ.

Anſ. These wordes: Our Father which art in Heauen?

Qu. To what vſe ſerueth the Preface?

Anſw. To prepare vs to pray aright. Eccleſ. 5. 1. Pſal. 26. 6.

Qu. Wherefore doe wee call God Father?

Anſ. To aſſure vs of his good will towards vs. Eſay 49. 15. Math. 7. 11.

Queſt. Why doe we ſay, *Our Father*; and not, My Father?

Anſ. To teach vs to pray for others as well as for our ſelues. Math. 5. 44. 2 Tim. 2. 1.

Qu. Wherefore doe we ſay, *Which art in heauen?*

Anſ. To ſignifie Gods readines to heare our Prayers, and his abilitie to grant our requeſts. Pſalm. 115. 3. Pſalm. 25. 1.

Queſt. How many Petitions are there in the Lords Prayer?

Anſ. Sixe.

Qu. How be they diuided?

Anſ. The three firſt concerne the glory of God: the other three our owne neceſſities.

Q. Why are the petitions thus placed? Prou. 16. 4.

Anſ.

Mat. 6. 33. Anſ. To teach vs that firſt wée are to ſéeke Gods glory, and then afterward our owne neceſſities in our Prayers.

Queſt. Rehearſe the firſt Petition?

Anſ. Hallowed be thy Name.

Queſt. What is here meant by the Name of God?

Exod. 34. 5. Rom. 2. Anſ. God himſelfe, his Workes, Word, Titles, Attributes, and whatſoeuer elſe, whereby hée is manifeſted and made knowne vnto vs.

Queſt. What is here meant by hallowing of the Name of God?

Leuit. 10. 3. Ezech. 38. 23. Anſ. The Name of God is ſaid to be hallowed, when it is reuealed, obſerued, glorified, and truely honoured.

Qu. What then doe we pray for here, in this firſt Petition?

Pſalm. 104. Rom. 1. 20. Anſ. Wée doe here pray, that Gods Honour and Glory, Iuſtice, Mercy, Power, Wiſedome, and Godneſſe, may truely be knowne, and duely extolled by vs in heart, mouth, and déede.

Queſt.

Queſt. What doe we pray againſt in this Petition?

Anſ. Wée doe here pray againſt our owne natural corruption, wants and imperfections, and againſt all prophaneneſſe in our ſelues & others. Pſal. 51. 15. Pſal. 119. 136.

Queſt. Rehearſe the ſecond Petition?

Anſ. Thy Kingdome come.

Queſ. What is meant by Kingdome, here?

Anſ. By kingdome here is meant the ſpirituall gouernment, whereby Chriſt ruleth in our hearts by his Word and Spirit, and doth prepare them for the kingdome of glory. Mat. 13. 24. Marke 1. 14. Eſay 11. 4.

Queſt. What doe we pray for here in this ſecond Petition?

Anſ. Wée doe heere pray that the Lord would raigne more and more in our hearts, enabling vs by his holy Spirit to doe thoſe things which are acceptable in his ſight. Pſal. 51. 10. 12

Queſt. What elſe doe we pray for here?

Anſ. Wée doe alſo here pray for the Church of God militant here on earth Pſal. 122. 6. Eſay 62. 7.

Esay 49. 23. 2 Thes. 3. 1. earth, and euery particular member thereof, for King, Magistrates, Ministers, Schools of learning, and all other meanes wherby Christs kingdome may come vnto vs.

Quest. What else doe we pray for here in this second Petition?

Reuel. 22. 20. 2 Tim. 4. 8. Ans. Wee doe here also pray, that the Lord would hasten his second comming, and finish these our dayes of sinne, bringing vs to his kingdome of glory.

Quest. What doe wee here pray against in this second Petition?

Rom. 7. 24. Ans. We doe here pray against our spirituall bondage vnder Sinne and Sathan: as also against the kingdome of Antichrist, and whatsoeuer is opposed against Christs kingdome.

Quest. Rehearse the third Petition?

Mat. 6. 10. Ans. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heauen.

Qu. What is here meant by Gods Will?

Ans. His holy Word (which is his

his reuealed Will) written in the Bookes of the old and new Testament. Iohn 6. 40. 1 Thes. 4. 3. Philip. 3. 10.

Quest. When is Gods will done?

Ans. When truely it is acknowledged, and willingly obeyed and performed by vs. Iohn 6. 29.

Qu. Why is this clause added, *As it is in heauen?*

An. To stirre vs vp with more willingnesse, readinesse, and faithfulnesse to yeeld obedience by the example of the Angels and heauenly Creatures. Reuel. 7. 11. Reuel. 19. 10.

Qu. What pray we for then in this third Petition?

Ans. Wee doe here pray for the right knowledge of the will of God, and for grace, patience and strength to obey it, and to submit our owne wils vnto it. Colos. 1. 12.

Quest. What doe we pray against in this third Petition?

Ans. Wee doe here pray against our owne rebellious wils, our owne impatiencie, and whatsoeuer within vs is repugnant to the will of God. Psal. 86. 11. 2 Sam. 15. 26.

Queſt. Rehearſe the fourth Petition.

Math. 6. 11. Anſ. Giue vs this day our daily Bread.

Queſt. What is here meant by Bread?

Pſal. 141. 10. 2 Kings 6. 2. Anſ. All things néedfull for this preſent life, as foode, rayment, and whatſoeuer elſe is néedfull for the ſuſtentation of our life here in this world.

Queſt. Why doe vvee aske for all this vnder the name of Bread?

1 Tim. 6. 8. Anſ. To teach vs frugalitie and moderation in our diet, apparrell, houſes, and houſhold furnitures, and to be content with a little, euen with food and cloathing.

Qu. Why doe we call it, *Our Bread*, ſeeing it is the gift of God?

1 Cor. 3. 22. 2 Theſ. 3. 10. Anſ. Becauſe we aſke no more then is giuen vnto vs by lawfull meanes.

Qu. Why doe we ſay, *Giue vs*; not, Giue me?

Anſ. Becauſe we muſt be mindefull of others as well as of our ſelues.

Queſt.

Queſt. Why doe we aske for this day onely?

Anſ. To teach vs to be content with the preſent Prouiſion, and to depend vpon God daily. Prou 30. 8. Mat. 6. 32.

Queſt. What then in generall doe we pray for in this fourth Petition?

Anſ. We doe here pray that God would grant vs all things neceſſarie for this preſent life, and a contented minde, alwayes to reſt vpon his prouidence. Pſal. 37. 5. Prou. 16. 3.

Queſt. What doe wee here pray againſt?

Anſ. All couetous deſires, diſtruſt and vnlawfull meanes of prouiſion for our ſelues. Pſal 119. 36. 1 Tim. 6. 10.

Queſt. Rehearſe the fift Petition?

Anſ. Forgiue vs our treſpaſſes, as wée forgiue them that treſpaſſe againſt vs. Mat. 6. 12.

Qu. What is here meant by debts or treſpaſſes?

Anſ. Our Sinnes, which (like Debts) doe binde vs at the Iudgement ſeate of God, and run in ſcore againſt vs. Luke 11. 4.

Queſt. What doe wee pray for in this fift Petition?

Mat. 5. 7. Anſ. That God for Chriſt Jeſus ſake, would freely forgiue vs all our ſinnes whatſoeuer, or whereſoeuer committed againſt him.

Queſt. Why is the condition here added, *As we forgiue, &c.*

Luke 11. 4. Mat. 18. 22. Anſ. To put vs in minde of our duty, which is freely to forgiue all offences done vnto vs.

Qu. What doe wee pray againſt in this fift Petition?

1 Cor. 6. 7. Anſ. We doe here pray againſt all hardneſſe of heart, vnmercifulneſſe, and perſeuerance in our ſinnes.

Queſt. Rehearſe the ſixt Petition?

Mat. 6. 13. Anſ. Lead vs not into temptation, but deliuer vs from euill.

Qu. What is here meant by temptation?

Iames 1. 13. Anſ. The enticement of the heart or Soule, eyther by the corruption of mans Nature, or the allurement of the World, or the Diuell, to any ſinne.

Queſt. What is meant by Euill?

Anſ.

Anſ. All the power of the Fleſh, the Diuell, and the Worlde. 1 Iohn 3. 19.

Queſt. What pray wee for in this ſixt Petition?

Anſ. That God would not ſuffer vs to be ouercome by any temptation of the Fleſh the Worlde, and the Diuell. Pſal. 51. 12.

Queſt. Doth God lead any man to wickedneſſe?

Anſ. No: for that is contrary to his nature. Iames 1. 13.

Queſt. Why then doe we aske this of God?

Anſ. Becauſe no man is tempted without his permiſſion. 2 Theſ. 2. 11.

Queſt. When doth God permit men to be tempted?

Anſ. When hee doth with-draw his grace from them, and leaueth them to their owne hearts luſts. Rom. 1. 24.

Queſt. VVhat doe we pray againſt in this Petition?

Anſ. Wee doe here pray againſt our naturall proneneſſe to yeeld to euery temptation vnto ſinne. Rom. 7. 23.

Queſt. VVhat meaneth the Con-

Mat. 6. 13. clusion added to this Prayer: *For thine is the Kingdome, Power and Glory, for euer and euer?* Amen.

Genes. 18. 27. Ans. It teacheth vs to humble
2 Cor. 1. 20. and abase our selues in Prayers be-
Philip. 4. 6. fore God, vtterly to deny all that is in vs, to relye vpon his willingnesse to heare vs, and his abilitie to grant our requests, as also to stirre vs vp to thankesgiuing.

Quest. What is Thankesgiuing?

Reuel. 7. 12. An. It is the praising and magnifying of the Lord, who is the author and fountaine of all good things.

Quest. May we not giue thankes to Angels or Saints?

Ierem. 17. 5. Ans. No: for that were manifest Idolatry.

Quest. Should we not be thankfull to men?

Esay 51. 12. 13. Ans. Yes: but the chiefe praise pertaineth to God.

Quest. For what should we praise God?

1 Thes. 5. 18. Ans. For all things that we haue,
Iob 1. 21. for prosperitie and aduersitie, and for whatsoeuer it shall please him

to

to giue vs, or to lay vpon vs.

Qu. How often should we praise God?

Ans. Continually, as we enioy his benefits, or see his hand vpon vs. Psal. 149. 5. Psal. 103. 1.

Quest. How should we praise him?

Ans. With minde, heart, word and worke. Deut. 6. 5.

Quest. What is the Conclusion and summe of all that hath beene spoken concerning these principles of Religion?

Ans. That this is life eternall, to know God through Iesus Christ, to honour him aright, and to beleeue in his name. Iohn 17. 3.

FINIS.